

## CLAIMS

What is Claimed is:

Sub. 1. A method of transferring data to a handheld device comprising the steps

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- a) using a universal conduit to transfer data to said handheld device, said data containing an indication of a file type;
  - b) storing said data as a stream within said handheld device and associating said file type with said stream;
  - c) indexing a registry with said file type of said stream to determine an identified application of said handheld that corresponds to said file type;
  - d) an exchange manager reading said stream and dispatching said stream to said identified application; and
  - 15 e) said identified application processing said stream in accordance with other objects associated with said identified application.

2. A method as described in Claim 1 wherein said step e) comprises the step of formatting said stream in accordance with an existing database associated with

20 said identified application, wherein said data is added as a record to said existing database.

3. A method as described in Claim 1 wherein said handheld device is a palm top computer system.

4. A method as described in Claim 1 wherein a host computer system is coupled to said handheld device via a communication link and wherein said universal conduit is resident on said host computer system.

5. A method as described in Claim 3 wherein said step a) is performed using a synchronization process between said host computer system and said handheld device.

6. A method as described in Claim 1 wherein said universal conduit is an install utility and wherein said file type is unknown to said universal conduit.

7. A method as described in Claim 1 wherein said step d) comprises the steps of:

d1) said exchange manager receiving a notification that new streams may reside in said handheld device;

d2) in response to said notification, said exchange manager determining a file type of a new stream;

d3) in response to said file type, said exchange manager determining said identified application;

d4) said exchange manager awaking said identified application; and

d5) said exchange manager dispatching said stream to said identified application.

8. A method of transferring data to a handheld device comprising the steps

5 of:

a) using a universal conduit to transfer data containing a record to said handheld device, said data containing an indication of a file type;

b) storing said data as a stream within said handheld device and associating said file type with said stream;

10 c) indexing a registry with said file type of said stream to determine an identified application of said handheld that corresponds to said file type;

d) an exchange manager reading said stream and dispatching said stream to said identified application; and

15 e) said identified application formatting said stream in accordance with an existing database associated with said identified application, wherein said data is added as a record to said existing database.

9. A method as described in Claim 8 wherein said handheld device is a palm top computer system.

20 10. A method as described in Claim 8 wherein a host computer system is coupled to said handheld device via a communication link and wherein said universal conduit is resident on said host computer system.

11. A method as described in Claim 10 wherein said step a) is performed using a synchronization process between said host computer system and said handheld device.

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12. A method as described in Claim 8 wherein said universal conduit is an install utility.

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13. A method as described in Claim 8 wherein said file type is unknown to said universal conduit.

14. A method as described in Claim 8 wherein said step d) comprises the steps of:

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d1) said exchange manager receiving a notification that new streams may reside in said handheld device;

d2) in response to said notification, said exchange manager determining a file type of a new stream;

d3) in response to said file type, said exchange manager determining said identified application;

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d4) said exchange manager awaking said identified application; and

d5) said exchange manager dispatching said stream to said identified application.

15. A system for transferring data comprising:

a) a host computer system comprising:

a1) a universal conduit for transferring a data file containing a record to a handheld device, said data file containing an indication of a file type; and

5 b) wherein said handheld device is coupled to said host computer using a communication link and comprises:

b1) a communication program for storing said data file as a stream and for associating said file type with said stream;

10 b2) an exchange manager for indexing a registry with said file type of said stream to determine an identified application of said handheld that corresponds to said file type;

b3) wherein said exchange manager is also for reading said stream and dispatching said stream to said identified application; and

15 b4) wherein said identified application is for processing said data file in accordance with other information associated with said identified application.

16. A system as described in Claim 15 wherein said identified application processes said data file by formatting said stream in accordance with an existing database associated with said identified application and wherein further said data file  
20 is added as a record to said existing database by said identified application.

17. A system as described in Claim 16 wherein said handheld device is a palm top computer system.

18. A system as described in Claim 16 wherein said universal conduit is resident on said host computer system connected to said handheld device.

5 19. A system as described in Claim 17 wherein said universal conduit transfers said data file by a synchronization process between said host computer system and said handheld device.

10 20. A system as described in Claim 16 wherein said universal conduit is an install utility and wherein said file type is unknown to said universal conduit.

15 21. A system as described in Claim 16 wherein said exchange manager is for receiving a notification that new streams may reside in said handheld device, in response to said notification, said exchange manager for identifying a file type of a new stream, said exchange manager, in response to said file type, for determining said identified application and for awaking said identified application, and said exchange manager also for dispatching said stream to said identified application.

20 22. A method of transferring data from a handheld device comprising the steps of:

a) an application generating a record to be exported, said application supplying said record with an export mechanism type and a file type;

b) an exchange manager receiving said record and exporting said record in accordance with said export mechanism type and provided said export mechanism type is synchronization, said exchange mechanism converting said record into a stream file and queuing said stream file for export;

5 c) upon a next synchronization, exporting said stream file via a universal conduit to a host computer system; and

d) in response to said file type, an application resident on said host computer system reading said stream file and converting contents of said stream file into a record of an existing database associated with said application.

23. A method as described in Claim 22 wherein said handheld device is a palm top computer system.

24. A method as described in Claim 22 wherein said universal conduit is a backup conduit.

25. A method as described in Claim 22 wherein said step c) is performed using a synchronization process between said host computer system and said handheld device.

26. A method as described in Claim 22 wherein said file type is unknown to said universal conduit.

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